



## Office of Research and Development

109 T.W. Alexander Drive, MD-05, Research Triangle Park, NC 27711

**Press  
Release**

**For Immediate Release  
September 16, 2002**

**Media Contact: Ann Brown  
(919)541-7818**

### Volunteers Needed for Air Pollution Study of Asthmatic Children

Research Triangle Park, NC...The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will be conducting a pilot study this fall to learn more about how children with asthma are exposed to air pollution in the Tampa area. Researchers are seeking participants for the Tampa Asthmatic Children's Study who have asthma or have a sibling with asthma; live in a single-family residence; are 5 years old or younger; do not attend day care; and do not live in a home with a smoker. Researchers are targeting the area south of I-275, east of Dale Mabry, north of Bay to Bay, and west of Bayshore.

Parents or guardians of children in this 4-day study will be asked to allow scientists to place small air pollution monitors inside and outside of their home; have the participating child wear a small activity sensor to determine their physical activity; keep a small box with air monitors near the participating child at all times; and answer a few questions each day concerning the child's activities and environment. The tasks are easy to do and will take less than 45 minutes each day. Study participants will be compensated. Children in the study may also be eligible to participate in a follow-up study in 2004.

Asthma is a widespread disease with serious health effects. Nearly 1 in 13 school-aged children has asthma, and the percentage of preschool-aged children with asthma is rising more rapidly than the percentage in any other age group. Asthma accounts for one third of all pediatric emergency room visits and is the fourth most common cause for doctor's office visits. It is suspected that exposure to air pollution worsens asthma symptoms in children. In this 4-day study, EPA hopes to learn more about potential sources of air pollution that might affect children with asthma. Types of air pollutants to be measured in the study include airborne particles and related gaseous pollutants associated with particles. These pollutants may have multiple sources and may occur from human activities and manmade and/or natural sources.

EPA selected the Tampa area for the Tampa Asthmatic Children's Study because of Tampa's diverse meteorological conditions and because the area has representative sources of pollutants such as combustion related products, particulate matter, and air toxics. Specific sources include marine salt, gasoline and diesel engines, coal and oil-fired utility plants, gas turbines, municipal waste incinerators, gasoline and ammonia storage, phosphate mining, and numerous manufacturing industries. EPA will begin recruiting for the study in September 2002 and will conduct measurements in October and November of 2002.

To find out how to participate in the study, contact Kelly Leovic with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, toll free at 1-877-EPA-AIRE (1-877-372-2473).